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DATE: 10/14/52
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~~Dean Acheson~~

SENT TO: -The Honorable-

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Origin

SS

Info

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Following is text of SECDEF's letter of October 28:

QUOTE Dear Mr. Secretary:

QUOTE With reference to your letter of 15 August 1952 in which you refer to the military situation in the Middle East, you suggested that the Joint Chiefs of Staff undertake a preliminary study of the essential requirements, from a military point of view, for the forward defense of the Middle East.

QUOTE The Joint Chiefs of Staff have conducted planning regarding military force requirements for defense of the Middle East. At the same time, they have endeavored to obtain British intentions in respect to fulfilling British responsibilities in the area. This planning is informative but is not considered to be conclusive. The entire question is, as I am sure you are well aware, an extremely complex one, and decisions in regard to it will have a decided impact on our strategic objectives elsewhere. The Joint Chiefs of Staff are now making a further estimate of requirements as part of the development of a Joint

Strategic

OASD(PA) DFOISR 12-15-52

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Strategic Objectives Plan for 1956, and they expect the plan to be completed early in 1953. This plan will provide information concerning force requirements for the Middle East correlated with the over-all force requirements world-wide and in consonance with U. S. strategic objectives.

QUOTE The Joint Chiefs of Staff will continue to study and reassess this problem, and you will be informed at a later date as progress is made in current studies and reassessments.

Sincerely, ROBERT A. LOVETT UNQUOTE

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